

As noted in the last issue of THE CIVILIAN, a general meeting of the Athletic Association to pass certain amendments to the constitution relating to elections will be held shortly, and it is quite possible that there will be offered at that time some practical proposition bearing on this subject. There may be a large proposal that will appeal to those to whom the words "Civil Service" are becoming more or less of an inspiration, who foresee the service in this country elevated to its legitimate status, and who are willing to undertake some obligations in the furtherance of that cause. Perhaps a more humble scheme will be proposed that will necessitate no self-sacrifices, make no demand upon the stock of *esprit de corps* in the service, but that will fill the stomach for the nonce. The choice rests with the members themselves.

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There is good reason to hope that the civil service may be represented in the hockey arena again. The last two attempts to carry on a service league were not fruitful of the desired result. Objectionable men and manners are not quite so in evidence to-day as formerly. The Interprovincial League, with its Cliffside, Victorias, etc., will help a great deal to cheer up lovers of fair, clean amateur sport. The present management of the athletic association has certainly sufficient strength of character about its personnel to run a hockey league, and keep it untainted by those who habitually frequent the penalty bench.

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The idea of having a penalty bench at all has only to be analyzed to be understood in its true light. An athlete is sent to the penalty bench for two kinds of fouls, the intentional and the accidental. Now a player should not be subjected to the indignity, before thousands of his fellows, of being dismissed from a game as unfit for decent company, for committing an unavoidably discourteous act towards a friendly rival. Surely this assertion is incontrovertible. In no other walk of life is a man so penalized and disgraced.

On the other hand, in no other walk of life is a man permitted, as he is permitted in athletics, to beat another over the head or elsewhere with a stick, and then allowed to refresh himself with five minutes' rest, only to return and commit the offence again and again in a single game. The expulsion from a game of an innocent player simply blunts the sensibilities and detracts from the self-respect of a gentleman. The expulsion, for five minutes' only, from a game of an habitually offensive and brutal player only encourages the thing it is intended to check. The records prove this. The players who go to the bench to-day went there five and ten years ago. The penalty rule is a failure.

Every allowance should be made in favor of the player when doubt exists as to a foul being intentional or accidental, indeed an occasional loss of temper might well be overlooked. But

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